

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A software agent for representing a person's identity, the software agent being adapted to dock a dockable module, the dockable module comprising a method means for performing a function, wherein the software agent further comprises an intermodule communication means for mapping a request from a requesting module to the method means in the dockable module.
2. (Original) A software agent as claimed in claim 1 wherein, the method means is adapted to perform said function responsive to said request.
3. (Currently Amended) A software agent as claimed in claim ~~1, or claim 2~~ wherein, said request from the requesting module comprises a label specifying a function and said method means in said dockable module corresponds to the specified function.
4. (Currently Amended) A software agent as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ 1, wherein said intermodule communication means comprises a store of labels and associated modules.
5. (Original) A software agent as claimed in claim 4 wherein said store of labels and associated modules is a table.
6. (Currently Amended) A software agent as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ 1, wherein said method means is adapted to perform the function of docking said dockable module with said agent.
7. (Currently Amended) A software agent as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ 1, wherein said method means is adapted to perform the function of registering a label with said intermodule communication means, the label specifying a function supported by said dockable module.
8. (Currently Amended) A software agent as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ 1, wherein said method means is adapted to perform the function of undocking said dockable module from an agent.
9. (Currently Amended) A software agent as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ 1, wherein said method means is adapted to perform the function of requesting ~~the discarding~~ of to discard a label from the intermodule communication means, the label specifying a function supported by said dockable module.

10. (Currently Amended) A software agent as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein, said method means is adapted to perform the function of updating said dockable module within said agent.

11. (Original) A method of deployment of a module in an agent comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for deployment of said module;

maintaining registration information relating to a function supported by said module; and

invoking said function.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~claim 11~~, wherein, the step of maintaining registration information comprises maintaining a store of labels and associated modules, each label specifying a function supported by a module.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said store of labels and associated modules is a table.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 11, to 13~~ wherein, the step of maintaining registration information comprises the step of registering a label specifying a function supported by said module.

15. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 11, to 13~~ wherein, said module is a docked module and said step of maintaining registration information comprises the step of unregistering a label specifying a function supported by said docked module.

16. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 11, to 13~~ wherein said module is a replacement module and said step of maintaining registration information comprises the steps of:

unregistering a label specifying a function supported by a docked module from said agent; and

registering a label specifying a function supported by said replacement module with said agent and said method further comprises the steps of:

storing information related to ~~the~~ a state of said docked module; and

instantiating said replacement module using said stored information.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 11, to 16~~ wherein, said step of maintaining registration information ~~further~~ comprises the step of queuing calls to the docked ~~modules'~~ module's registered labels, prior to the step of registering a ~~the~~ label specifying a ~~the~~ function supported by said replacement module.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 11, to 17~~ wherein, the function supported by said module is the method of deployment of said module.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program comprising program instructions for causing a computer to perform the method of claims 11 ~~to 18~~.